

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2011

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Environment Committee Meeting of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 11 October 2011 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor (S Nash), Belleli, Hughes (Deputy Chairperson), Matson (Chairperson), Smith, Tracey, White and Woodsmith

Quorum: Five (5) members

NOTE: At the extraordinary meeting held on 22 May 2007, the Council resolved that the Environment Committee be constituted as a committee with full delegation to determine matters on the agenda.

Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

Confirmation of the Minutes

Environment Committee Meeting - 13 September 2011

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Greening Randwick Reports

Nil

Environment Reports

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Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E14/11



Subject: Update on community carshare in Randwick
Folder No: F2004/08350
Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

To provide an update on the community carshare vehicles provided for Randwick residents through Council support of GoGet Carshare.

Issues

For the past few years Council has supported a community car share initiative for residents across Randwick. Starting with only 4 vehicles around 2006, the car share fleet operated by GoGet has now grown to 31 vehicles and locations. As at July 2011, there were 550 Randwick residents subscribing to the GoGet carshare service.

Of these members, approximately 51% chose not to own a vehicle, 74% indicated they would purchase a vehicle if they did not use the GoGet vehicles and 67% said they would have to park on the street if they owned a vehicle.

This translates to approximately 400 fewer vehicles owned by Randwick residents and approximately 370 fewer vehicles parked on Randwick streets.

Booking rates in July 2011 were around 28 bookings per day, with 146 trips booked over 50 kilometres and around 872 bookings overall.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 9: Integrated and accessible transport.

Direction 9(b): The community is informed, educated and encouraged to use sustainable transport; and

Direction 9(e): Parking is managed to balance convenience against reduced car reliance.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

Car sharing provides residents with the opportunity to choose not to have a first or second vehicle enabling them to access and pay for the use of a motor vehicle only when they need to. This has the capacity to reduce some of the residential amenity issues related to motor vehicle use as well as reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from the additional vehicles that residents may otherwise own and operate.

Recommendation

That this report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E14/11

Environment Report No. E15/11



Subject: Overview of Council's 2011 energy audit results
Folder No: F2005/00230
Author: Choonghan Yeo, Sustainability Projects Officer

Introduction

To provide Council with an overview of results of the recently completed energy audit of Council sites and facilities.

Issues

As part of the Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment (WaSIP) Program, an energy audit of the top ten energy consuming Council sites and facilities has recently been completed. The audit was a follow up to the previous Energy Savings Action Plan presented to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in 2006.

A summary of overall results indicates the changes monitored between the two reporting periods of 2005/2006 and 2009/2010:

	2005/2006	2009/2010	Percentage change
Energy consumption	18,712 Gigajoules	17,665 Gigajoules	5.9% decrease in consumption
Energy costs	\$384,634	\$545,275	29.5% increase in energy costs
Energy related Greenhouse gas emissions	3,871 tonnes	3,683 tonnes	5.1% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions

From the table above, there is a 5% decrease in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions over the last 5 years. However, there is an increase of 29.5% in energy costs over the same period which can be attributed to the rising cost of energy over the last few years.

Although the top ten energy consuming sites were established and monitored for the purpose of the energy audit, there are primarily four key energy consuming sites where energy saving efforts will need to be prioritised. These 4 sites are shown below:

2009/2010 only	Des Renford Aquatic Centre (approx)	Admin Bldg (approx)	Bowen Library (approx)	Works Depot (approx)

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2009/2010 only	Des Renford Aquatic Centre (approx)	Admin Bldg (approx)	Bowen Library (approx)	Works Depot (approx)
Energy consumption	7,600 GJ	5,000 GJ	2,600 GJ	1,200 GJ
Energy costs	\$155,000	\$170,000	\$115,000	\$35,000
Greenhouse gas emissions from energy	1,123 tonnes	1,125 tonnes	750 tonnes	360 tonnes

In follow up to these overall results a number of key actions will be undertaken including:

- Prioritising actions to tackle energy consumption and the rising cost at the highest consuming sites;
- Allocating available resources to reduce energy costs at these highest consuming sites;
- Seeking out external funding opportunities to enable priority actions to be adequately resourced;
- Re-convening Council's Energy and Water Working Group to better coordinate Council's efforts in reducing overall energy consumption and costs.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

This energy audit enables Council to have a better understanding of energy related issues and to identify priority actions that can be taken to target consumption and the rising energy cost which in turn will influence Council efforts to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from the highest energy consuming sites.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Environment Report No. E16/11



Subject: Update on Randwick's sustainability education 'hub' at Randwick Community Centre

Folder No: F2004/08350

Author: Fiona Campbell, Sustainability Education Officer

Introduction

In June 2009, the Environment Committee resolved (Andrews/Hughes) to create a sustainability education 'hub' at Randwick Community Centre through external funding provided by the NSW Government's Public Facilities grants program.

The funding of \$212,000 over a 3 year timeframe, was to enable tangible changes and community education initiatives within and external to the Community Centre building. These included demonstration efforts showing how to reduce water and energy consumption and reduce waste and construction of a permaculture interpretive garden.

This report provides a brief update on the elements making up this project and the results to date in creating a sustainability education 'hub' at Randwick Community Centre.

Issues

Construction of a permaculture interpretive garden which includes:

- Raised garden beds for practical learning of permaculture principles to younger and older members of the community;
- Demonstration areas for companion planting and pest plant management;
- Compost demonstration area;
- Potting shed and rainwater tanks;
- Native garden demonstration area.

Retrofitting for sustainability inside the Randwick Community Centre:

A range of projects have been completed within the Community Centre itself including:

- Provision of new entrance doors and louvre systems allowing natural ventilation and light;
- Replacement of upper roof louvres with electric windows allowing natural ventilation and light;
- Installation of reversible ceiling fans for better cooling and heating over the year;
- Installation of energy efficient gas heaters in the main halls;
- Installation of solar tube lighting in the corridors off the main hall;
- Construction of a demonstration and learning kitchen for use during community workshops.

Community Education

- An additional \$50,000 was obtained for the installation of a Waterwise Education Trail around and within the Community Centre now used as part of the visitation program being developed and implemented;
- Four "Living Smart" sustainability workshop series have been held (each around 6 weeks in duration). These are free for residents and attract around 30 registrations per workshop series;

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- Delivery of two “EcoCentres” courses targeting early childhood teachers and parents over a four week timeframe;
- Development and delivery of a volunteer outreach training program including a monthly volunteer working bee for residents under a “Permabees” program (many of these are participants from previous Living Smart sustainability courses).
- Development and trialling of a new schools visitation program, focusing mainly on primary schools and with 12 excursion groups now booked in until the end of the school year;
- A Sustainability Leaders course to increase the capacity of volunteers assisting in the permaculture interpretive garden and those having completed from the Living Smart sustainability courses;
- Continuation of major events such as the annual Eco Living Fair conducted at the Randwick Community Centre.

Other features

The small scale 2.4 kilowatt wind turbine on-site is used for the educational efforts and learning of visitors to the Community Centre;

As with the 13 hectare Randwick Environmental Park with its wetland, native planting and vegetation areas adjacent to the sustainability ‘hub’ at the Community Centre.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community.

Direction 2(b): Enrich our range of community services that meet our community’s needs.

Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.

Direction 3(c): A community involved in shaping and enhancing our City.

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

Direction 10(a) Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Financial impact statement

The external funding provided for this three year project was \$212,000 plus the \$50,000 provided for the Waterwise Education Trail. Council’s contribution is approximately \$105,000 provided primarily through the community education budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

The features of Council’s sustainability education ‘hub’ at Randwick Community Centre is gaining in recognition as a major resource for capacity building of the local community and as a key demonstration site in the Sydney Metropolitan area and the Eastern suburbs for sustainability learning and practical initiatives. The reputation of Council in the area of sustainability demonstration and practice continues to be strengthened by the program of initiatives underway at the Randwick Community Centre.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Environment Report No. E17/11



Subject: Community bike repair project at Yarra Bay House
Folder No: F2004/08350
Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The 4-Council and Housing NSW partnership project is providing funding to establish a community bike repair project at Yarra Bay House with support from the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council and Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation.

This paper outlines Council's involvement in this project for its notation.

Issues

Randwick City Council in conjunction with the City of Sydney, Marrickville and Canterbury Councils and Housing NSW have received funding from the NSW Environmental Trust to conduct a number of projects aimed at assisting public housing residents and the local Aboriginal communities in the respective local government areas.

Recently stage 2 funding within this grant has been provided for Council to work with the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council and Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation to establish a bicycle repair project for the local community.

Running until May 2012, this project will assist volunteers and coordinating staff to establish a bicycle recycling/repair project. The aim is to repair and refurbish unwanted bicycles to good working order. The newly regenerated will in the first instance be offered to students at local schools. Any surplus refurbished bicycles will be offered to the wider audience via a bicycle lending library.

Randwick Council's role will be to assist in promoting this worthwhile project and facilitate the collection and delivery of secondhand or unwanted bicycles to the workshop area being established at Yarra Bay House. Residents will be able to notify Council and have these unwanted bicycles collected at nominated times. Upon delivery to Yarra Bay House, trained project staff will assess if the donated bicycles are appropriate for repair or sent off for recycling.

A progress report will be provided to Council before April 2012.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community.
Direction 2(c): Strong partnerships between Council, community groups and government agencies.
- Outcome 9: Integrated and accessible transport.
Direction 9(b): The community is informed, educated and encouraged to use sustainable transport.

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Financial impact statement

With the external funding of approximately \$30, 000 being provided by the NSW Environmental Trust for this project. The cost to Council will be of an in-kind contribution estimated at approximately \$3,000, mainly for staff time.

Conclusion

This project builds on previous projects conducted at Yarra Bay House with the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Corporation. It will assist local volunteers and coordinating staff to provide repaired bicycles to the local community. The project will also assist in developing and implementing a cycling 'hub' across Randwick as approved recently by Council (MM 61/11, refers).

Recommendation

That this report is received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E17/11